What Is the Difference Between a Delta Name Change and a Name Correction?

QUICK ANSWER:

A name correction fixes minor errors like typos and missing middle names on the same person's ticket. It is free and takes 2-5 minutes by phone. A legal name change updates the ticket after marriage, divorce, or court order, requiring documentation and possible fare difference on reissuance. Neither can be done online. Transferring to a different person is not allowed. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 for both corrections and legal changes.

NEED A NAME CHANGE OR CORRECTION? Call Delta Airlines
+1➤855➤203➤2961 (Available 24/7 | Name Changes Are Phone-Only)
Press 0 to skip menu and reach a live agent
Best time: Tue-Wed 6-8 AM ET | Source: delta.com

WHAT TYPE OF NAME MODIFICATION DO YOU NEED?

1. Determine if your situation is a correction (typo fix) or a legal name change (marriage/divorce)

2. For corrections: call +1➤855➤203➤2961 with your confirmation code and correct spelling from your ID

3. For legal changes: call +1➤855➤203➤2961 with your marriage certificate, divorce decree, or court order

4. For a completely different person: this is a transfer (not allowed) — cancel and rebook instead

5. Within 24 hours of booking: cancel and rebook with the correct name for free per DOT rules

6. Name changes are phone-only — delta.com and the app cannot process name modifications

7. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 and the agent determines whether your situation is a correction or change

What Exactly Is a Name Correction on Delta?

A name correction fixes minor errors on an existing ticket where the passenger's identity remains the same person. This includes fixing typos of 1-3 characters (such as "Micheal" to "Michael" or "Jhon" to "John"), correcting transposed letters (such as "Smtih" to "Smith"), adding or removing a middle name that was omitted or incorrectly included, and fixing common abbreviation issues (such as "Wm" to "William"). The correction is free, takes 2-5 minutes during the phone call, and the agent sends an updated confirmation email immediately after processing. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 for name

corrections on any Delta ticket.

The defining characteristic of a name correction is that the passenger identity does not change. The same person is traveling; the ticket simply had an error in how their name was entered. The agent at +1➤855➤203➤2961 assesses each situation individually to determine whether it qualifies as a correction. Being polite and clearly explaining the error increases the likelihood of smooth processing. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 and describe the error in simple terms: "My ticket says [wrong] but my ID shows [correct]."

What Exactly Is a Legal Name Change on Delta?

A legal name change updates a ticket to reflect a new legal name that the passenger has adopted through a legal process. This includes post-marriage name changes where a passenger takes a spouse's surname, post-divorce name reversions where a passenger returns to their pre-marriage name, court-ordered name changes for any reason including gender transition, and any other legally documented name modification. Legal name changes require documentation proving the change. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 with your legal documentation ready.

Unlike corrections, legal name changes may require ticket reissuance because the name modification is substantial enough that the system treats it as a new ticket under the new name. When reissuance occurs, a fare difference may apply if the ticket price has changed since the original purchase. The agent at +1➤855➤203➤2961 discloses any fare difference before processing so you can decide whether to proceed. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 and the agent explains all costs upfront before making any changes.

How Do You Tell the Difference Between a Correction and a Change?

The fundamental question is: has the passenger's legal identity changed, or was the name simply entered incorrectly? If your legal name has always been "John Michael Smith" and the ticket says "Jon Michel Smith," that is a correction because the passenger identity is the same and the errors are entry mistakes. If your legal name was "Jane Doe" when you booked but is now "Jane Smith" after marriage, that is a legal name change because your actual legal identity has been updated. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 and the agent makes this determination based on your explanation and documentation.

The distinction matters because corrections are always free and simple, while legal changes may involve documentation, reissuance, and fare differences. When you call +1➤855➤203➤2961, describe your situation clearly: "My name was entered wrong at the time of booking" (correction) versus "My legal name has changed since I booked" (legal change). The agent at +1➤855➤203➤2961 applies the appropriate process based on your situation.

Why Can Neither Be Done Online?

Name modifications on Delta require phone processing through +1➤855➤203➤2961 because the agent must verify the correction against a description of your government-issued ID before making changes to the ticket. This verification step prevents unauthorized name changes and protects passengers from fraudulent ticket modifications. The online system at delta.com and the Fly Delta app do not have the identity verification capability required for name changes, which is why the Modify option on these platforms does not include name modification. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 for all name corrections and legal changes.

While the phone-only requirement may seem inconvenient, the process is designed to protect passengers. Name changes without proper verification could enable ticket fraud. The phone call with +1➤855➤203➤2961 typically takes only 2-5 minutes for corrections and 5-10 minutes for legal changes, making it a minor inconvenience for significant security protection. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 and the agent processes the change efficiently during a single interaction.

What If the Name Is Completely Wrong — a Different Person Entirely?

If the ticket was booked under a completely different person's name, this is neither a correction nor a legal change. It is a transfer request, and Delta tickets are non-transferable on all fare types. You cannot change "Robert Johnson" to "Sarah Williams" because these are different people. The solution is to cancel the original ticket and book a new one under the correct passenger's name. Within 24 hours of booking: cancel for full cash refund per DOT rules and rebook for $0 total cost. After 24 hours: cancel for eCredit (non-refundable) or cash (refundable) and rebook separately. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 to process the cancel-and-rebook.

The eCredit from a cancelled non-refundable ticket stays with the original passenger's name and cannot be transferred to the new traveler. The new passenger must purchase their own ticket at current pricing. This can be expensive if fares have increased since the original booking. The 24-hour rule provides the only cost-free path for wrong-person bookings. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 immediately if you discover a wrong-person booking and act within 24 hours for the best financial outcome.

Can You Change or Correct a Name on a Delta Award Ticket?

Award tickets follow the same rules as revenue tickets for name corrections and legal changes. Minor corrections are free and processed during the call to +1➤855➤203➤2961. Legal changes require documentation and follow the same process as revenue tickets. Transfers to different people are not allowed. For wrong-person award bookings, cancel the award to return miles to the original passenger's SkyMiles account with a possible redeposit fee, then rebook the award under the correct name. Diamond members receive free redeposit. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 for award ticket name modifications.

Never no-show on an award ticket with a name error. A no-show may permanently forfeit the redeemed SkyMiles. Even if the redeposit fee is $150, saving 50,000 miles worth approximately $600 is clearly the better outcome. Cancel before departure and the miles return to your account. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 before the flight if you cannot resolve the name issue in time, and the agent returns your miles with applicable fees disclosed.

How Does the 24-Hour Rule Apply to Name Issues?

The DOT 24-hour cancellation rule is the most powerful tool for resolving name issues on recently booked tickets. Within 24 hours of booking, you can cancel any ticket for a full cash refund regardless of fare type, then immediately rebook with the correct name at current pricing. If the fare has not changed, the total cost is $0. This applies to corrections, legal changes, and even wrong-person bookings that would otherwise be impossible to fix. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 within the 24-hour window to process both the cancellation and the rebooking in a single call.

The 24-hour window starts from the booking confirmation time, not from when you notice the error. Check your booking confirmation email for the exact booking timestamp. Even with minutes remaining in the window, the cancellation and rebooking can be processed. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 as soon as you discover any name issue on a recently booked ticket to maximize your options within the 24-hour period.

What If You Are Not Sure Which Type You Need?

If you are uncertain whether your situation qualifies as a correction or a legal change, call +1➤855➤203➤2961 and describe the situation to the agent. The agent is trained to make this determination and will ask questions about the nature of the name difference, whether your legal name has changed, and what documentation you have. You do not need to categorize the issue yourself before calling. The agent at +1➤855➤203➤2961 handles the classification and applies the appropriate process based on your answers.

Common situations that seem ambiguous include nickname versus legal name on the ticket (usually a correction), hyphenated name that was entered without the hyphen (usually a correction), and name that appears differently in the passport machine-readable zone versus the data page (usually a correction to match the MRZ). Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 and explain your specific situation for accurate classification and processing.

How Does the TSA Secure Flight Program Affect Name Issues?

The TSA Secure Flight program requires airline ticket names to match passengers' government-issued identification. When you check in and go through security, TSA compares the name on your boarding pass to your ID. Minor discrepancies such as a missing middle name or a common nickname may be allowed at the TSA agent's discretion, but significant mismatches can

trigger additional screening, delays, or boarding denial. Fix any name discrepancy before travel by calling +1➤855➤203➤2961 to avoid airport complications.

For international travel, the standard is stricter: your ticket name must match your passport's machine-readable zone exactly. The MRZ format at the bottom of the passport data page may display your name differently than the visual name field, especially for hyphenated names, suffixes, and names with diacritical marks. Tell the agent at +1➤855➤203➤2961 the exact spelling from the MRZ when correcting names on international tickets. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 well before your departure date to allow time for the correction to propagate.

What Are the Most Common Name Mistakes That Need Fixing?

The most frequent name issues that passengers call +1➤855➤203➤2961 about include: first and last name entered in the wrong fields (very common on some booking interfaces), middle name accidentally omitted during online booking, name entered from memory rather than from the ID resulting in spelling variations, spouse's name accidentally used for the wrong ticket when booking for a couple, and nickname entered instead of the legal name shown on the ID. All of these are correctable by calling +1➤855➤203➤2961 before travel.

A less obvious but increasingly common issue is name format differences between domestic ID and passport. Your driver's license may show "JOHN M SMITH" while your passport shows "JOHN MICHAEL SMITH" in the visual field and "SMITH<<JOHN<MICHAEL" in the MRZ. For domestic travel, either format works with TSA flexibility. For international travel, the passport format takes precedence. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 and specify which ID you will use for travel so the agent matches the correct format.

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Name Change vs Correction Comparison

Situation	Type	Cost	Documents	Process
Typo: "Jon" to "John"	Name correction	Free	Government ID	Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 2-5 min fix
Missing middle name added	Name correction	Free	Government ID	Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 2-5 min fix
Transposed letters: "Smtih" to "Smith"	Name correction	Free	Government ID	Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 2-5 min fix

Marriage: maiden to married name	Legal name change	Possible fare difference	Marriage cert + new ID	Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 5-10 min
Divorce: married to maiden name	Legal name change	Possible fare difference	Divorce decree + new ID	Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 5-10 min
Court-ordered name change	Legal name change	Possible fare difference	Court order + new ID	Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 5-10 min
Different person entirely	Not allowed (transfer)	Cancel + rebook cost	N/A	Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 cancel + rebook
Wrong name within 24 hours of booking	24-hour cancel + rebook	$0 (DOT rule)	Government ID	Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 cancel + rebook

How Does Delta Compare to Other Airlines?

Policy	Delta	American	United	Southwest	Alaska	JetBlue
Minor spelling correction	Free phone only	Free phone only	Free phone only	Free phone/app	Free phone only	Free phone only
Legal name change	Allowed with docs	Allowed with docs	Allowed with docs	Allowed with docs	Allowed with docs	Allowed with docs
Transfer to different person	Not allowed	Not allowed	Not allowed	Limited some fares	Not allowed	Not allowed
Name change method	Phone only	Phone only	Phone only	Phone or app	Phone only	Phone only
Reissuance for legal	May require fare diff	May require fare diff	May require fare diff	No reissuance	May require fare diff	May require fare diff

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People Also Ask

Q: What is the difference between a name change and name correction on Delta?

A name correction fixes small errors on the same person's ticket: typos, transposed letters, middle name additions. It is free and processed in 2-5 minutes. A legal name change updates the ticket to reflect a new legal name after marriage, divorce, or court order, requiring documentation and possible ticket reissuance with fare difference. Both require calling +1➤855➤203➤2961 because name modifications are phone-only on Delta.

Read our complete guide for more details >

Q: Is a Delta name correction free?

Yes, minor name corrections are free. Fixing 1-3 character errors, correcting transposed letters, and adding or removing a middle name cost nothing when you call +1➤855➤203➤2961. The agent corrects the name during the call in 2-5 minutes and sends an updated confirmation email. The key requirement is that the passenger identity remains the same person. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 for free corrections.

Read our complete guide for more details >

Q: How much does a Delta legal name change cost?

There is no separate name change fee. The only potential cost is a fare difference if the ticket requires reissuance and the current fare is higher than your original purchase price. Minor corrections never require reissuance. Legal name changes may require reissuance depending on the extent of the change. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 and the agent discloses any fare difference before processing.

Read our complete guide for more details >

Q: Can you change a Delta ticket to a different person?

No, Delta tickets are non-transferable. You cannot change the passenger to a completely different person. The alternatives are: cancel for eCredit or cash refund and have the new person book separately, or use the 24-hour DOT rule to cancel and rebook under the correct name for free within 24 hours of booking. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 for the cancel-and-rebook process.

Read our complete guide for more details >

Q: What documents do you need for a Delta name change?

For corrections: government ID showing the correct spelling. For post-marriage: marriage certificate plus updated ID. For post-divorce: divorce decree plus updated ID. For court-ordered changes: court order plus updated ID. The agent at +1➤855➤203➤2961 may request emailed copies. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 with your documents ready.

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Q: Can you change a name on Delta online?

No, all name corrections and changes on Delta require calling +1➤855➤203➤2961. The website and Fly Delta app cannot process name modifications because the agent must verify the correction against a government ID before making changes. The phone process is quick, typically 2-5 minutes for corrections. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 for all name modifications.

Read our complete guide for more details >

Q: What happens if your name does not match your ID?

TSA compares your ticket name to your government ID under the Secure Flight program. Minor discrepancies like a missing middle name may be allowed. Significant mismatches can cause additional screening or boarding denial. Fix any discrepancy before travel by calling +1➤855➤203➤2961. International flights require exact passport match. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 as soon as you notice any

name error.

Read our complete guide for more details >

Q: Can you fix a name on a Delta award ticket?

Yes, same rules apply. Minor corrections are free. Legal changes require documentation. Transfers to different people are not allowed. For wrong-person bookings, cancel the award (miles redeposited with possible fee, Diamond members free) and rebook under the correct name. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 for award ticket name modifications.

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Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Correction or change?

A: Correction: typo fix, same person, free. Change: new legal name, docs required, possible fare diff. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 to determine.

Q: Is correction free?

A: Yes. 1-3 char fixes, transposed letters, middle names. Free, 2-5 min. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961.

Q: Legal change cost?

A: No name change fee. Possible fare diff on reissuance. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 for exact cost before processing.

Q: Transfer to different person?

A: Not allowed. Cancel + rebook. Within 24 hrs: $0. After: eCredit + new ticket. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961.

Q: Online or phone?

A: Phone only for all name modifications. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961. Website and app cannot process.

Q: Documents?

A: Correction: gov ID. Marriage: cert + ID. Divorce: decree + ID. Court: order + ID. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961.

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> How Do You Request a Name Correction on Delta?

> How Do You Request a Legal Name Change on Delta?

> How Much Does a Delta Name Change vs Correction Cost?

> What Documents Do You Need for Delta Name Changes?

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Written by Travel Policy Research Team | Reviewed by Senior Aviation Editor

Sources: delta.com, U.S. DOT (dot.gov/airconsumer)

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